UNITED
NATIONS

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United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/CN.1/TUNGSTEN/9
16 August 1994

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Commodities
Intergovernmental Group of Experts
on Tungsten
Third session
Geneva, 7 November 1994
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Examination of statistics and review of the current market situation and medium and long-term outlook

4. Consideration of project proposals by Governments and industry which could be submitted for possible financing under the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities, including consideration of other ways, means and measures to improve the functioning and stability of the tungsten market through strengthened international co-operation between Governments and industries of producing and consuming countries

5. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Tungsten

6. Other business

7. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to the Standing Committee on Commodities.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

At the opening of the session, the Group of Experts should elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur. Chairmanship is normally rotated alternately between producing and consuming countries. In this respect, it is recalled that the second session of the Group was chaired by Mr. Estaban Orbegoso (Spain).

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda in section I was approved by the Group at its second session (See annex I in TD/B/CN.1/18 - TD/B/CN.1/TUNGSTEN/8).

Item 3: Examination of statistics and review of the current market situation and medium and long-term outlook

It is proposed that consideration of this item start immediately after the adoption of the agenda, in ordeer to facilitate completion of discussions by the end of the first day of the session. Both government and industry participants are therefore urged to prepare themselves in advance so as to be able to make their contributions in the deliberations, if they wish to do so, within the alloted time.

In order to facilitate the examination of statistics, the secretariat will provide an advance copy of the UNCTAD annual bulletin Tungsten Statistics 1994 to all member States prior to the session in accordance with the agreed deadline. At the opening of the session, supplementary statistics will be made available in the form of a quarterly bulletin, which will include the latest data received from Governments and industry so as to give an up-to-date situation before the discussion starts. The Group is expected to examine and, through its deliberations, to amplify and improve the available statistics, thereby contributing to improving the transparency of the tungsten market. Given the relative scarcity of data available on tungsten, Group members, particularly those who have promised to do so concerning their respective countries, are urged to make special efforts to fill existing gaps in the statistics with actual or estimated figures.

Group members are requested to hand in the data they have brought with them at the latest by 5 p.m. on 7 November so that they could be included in the informal statistical document which will be issued by the secretariat on the following day.

As regards discussions of the current market situation and medium and long-term outlook, it is proposed to proceed as follows:

(a) Examination of the report prepared by the secretariat on the current world market situation and medium and long-term outlook for tungsten (TD/B/CN.1/TUNGSTEN/10);

(b) Presentation of national statements by Governments to review the current situation and outlook in national markets as well as the global market;

(c) Contributions by industry advisers to cover thr global or national market situation and outlook, or both, and aspects influencing trends and

developments in the tungsten market. As part of the contribution by industry in the deliberations, Mr. Peter K. Johnson, Director of the Metal Powder Industries Federation, will make a presentation on Tungsten industry in the United States. He is expected to make his presentation at 4.30 p.m. and enough time will be allowed for discussions;

(d) Preparation of an assessment of the current situation and outlook for the international tungsten market, which will be included in the report of the Group.

Item 4: Consideration of project proposals by Governments and industry which could be submitted for possible financing under the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities, including consideratrion of other ways, means and measures to improve the functioning and stability of the tungsten market through strenghtened international cooperation between Governments and industries of producing and consuming countries

As an International Commodity Body (ICB) of the Common Fund for Commodities, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Tungsten is eligible to submit project proposals for consideration by the Common Fund for possible financing under its Second Account. Group members are invited to make proposals so that progress could be made in this respect. This item is intended also as a follow-up to the discussions under item 3. It is proposed that consideration of this item start and terminate in the second morning of the session.

Item 5: Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Group

In the light of discussions at this session, the Group may wish to consider the provisional agenda for its fourth session.

Item 6: Other business

Group members may propose any matter of concern for discussion, including ideas for improving the relevance of the Group of Experts to the international tungsten industry which has experienced great changes in recent years. Discussions on this item are expected to begin and conclude in the second morning of the session.

Item 7 Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to the Standing Committee on Commodities

The report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will be considered by the Standing Committee on Commodities at its fourth session.